

Message Text

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61

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 /100 W

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R 091650Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9677

INFO AMEMBUSSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LAGOS 05376

E.O. 11652 : NA

TAGS : ECIN, XY

SUBJ : ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

REFS: A. STATE 128276

B. LAGOS 5001

1. ACCORDING INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, THREE STATES, NIGERIA,

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TOGO, AND LIBERIA, HAVE SO FAR RATIFIED ECOWAS TREATY. WORKING

LEVELS OF MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WHICH IS THE ACTION MINISTRY ON ECOWAS, HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT REQUIRED RATIFICATION BY MINIMUM OF SEVEN MEMBERS WILL BE GAINED QUICKLY AND THAT ECOWAS WILL BE IN BUSINESS WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. FAR LESS CERTAIN WITHIN FMG WHEN OR EVEN IF ALL FIFTEEN MEMBERS WILL RATIFY.

2. FOR THE MOMENT HOWEVER THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT FMG RIDING HIGH. FMG APPARENTLY HAD LITTLE ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW MANY HEADS OF STATE WOULD ATTEND SUMMIT AND ALSO COULD NOT BE SURE UNTIL TIME FOR SIGNING THAT FIFTEEN SIGNATURES WOULD INDEED APPEAR ON TREATY. FACT THAT TREATY WAS SIGNED BY ALL FIFTEEN PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WAS CAUSE FOR GREAT JOY AMONGST FMG OFFICIALS AND APPEARANCE IN LAGOS OF NO FEWER THAN ELEVEN WA HEADS OF STATE WAS ICING ON CAKE. NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS HAVE CONTINUED TO GIVE ECOWAS BANNER TREATMENT.

3. FMG CLEARLY IS EAGER TO MOVE THE PROJECT AHEAD AND MAY BE ABLE TO CAPITALIZE ON THE MOMENTUM GAINED TO DO SO,. HOWEVER, NIGERIANS CONTINUE TO BE ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO CHARGES THEY SEEK TO DOMINATE SMALLER WA NEIGHBORS THROUGH MECHANISM OF ECOWAS AND MAY RESTRAIN THEIR ENTHUSIASM IN ORDER TO KEEP SUCH ACCUSATIONS TO A MINIMUM. (BOTH ADEDIJI AND ARIKPO HAVE FELT IT NECESSARY WITHIN PAST TEN DAYS TO AFFIRM PUBLICLY THAT NIGERIA DOES NOT SEEK TO BE DOMINANT POWER IN ECOWAS). WORKING LEVELS OF FMG SEEM TO REALIZE THAT SPEED WITH WHICH ECOWAS BEGINS TO TAKE EFFECT DEPENDS MORE UPON THEIR NEIGHBORS THAN UPON WHAT FMG CAN DO AT THIS POINT. IN THIS REGARD EMBASSY WILL SEEK TO REPORT VIEWS OF WEST AFRICAN DIPLOMACY IN LAGOS,BUT THIS OBVIOUSLY CAN ONLY BE SUPPLEMENTARY TO REPORTING DONE BY OTHER POSTS.

4. TREATY (WHICH IS LITTLE CHANGED FROM DRAFT) COMMUNIQUE AND LISTS OF DELEGATIONS BEING SENT ALL ADDRESSEES, UNDER COVER AIRGRAM.
EASUM

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